

**Starvation Deaths**

3225. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Starvation deaths took place in Orissa" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported thereon;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission which has deputed a team of officers to investigate the reports of starvation deaths in Orissa, have not yet finalised their recommendation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Implementation of Sarkaria Commission Report**

3226. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the implementation of the Sarkaria Commission Report;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan recently demanded that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission may be implemented by December 31, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any deadline has been fixed for the implementation of the Report; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) The Government has seen the resolution passed in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan held on 25.6.1997.

2. The Sarkaria Commission had submitted its report in January, 1998. The report contained 247 recommendations.

3. As decided in the first meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 10.10.1990, a Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council was constituted to examine the

recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations and submit its views and recommendations to the Council. The tenure of the said Committee was extended from time to time, the last term being upto 30.6.1996. The work done by the Sub-Committee is summarised below:—

*Number of recommendations :*

Accepted with/without modifications	155
Not accepted	24
On which no consensus could be reached	11
Partially considered	1
Yet to be finalised	56
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	247

4. The recommendations finalised by the Sub-Committee could not be considered by the Inter-State Council which remained dormant for about six years. The UF Government has reactivated the Council. The second meeting of the Council was held on 15.10.1996 wherein 179 recommendations finalised by the Sub-Committee were broadly endorsed. It was also recommended that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council for continuous consultations and processing of matters for the consideration of the Council. The Standing Committee was constituted on 5.12.1996. It has held four meetings so far. The following important subjects were discussed in these meetings:—

- (i) Alternative Scheme of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States submitted by the Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) Amendment to article 356 of the Constitution of India.
- (iii) Centre-State Financial Relations (Chapter X of the Sarkaria Commission's Report).

5. A draft consensus paper on the Role of Governor (Chapter IV) of the Sarkaria Commission's Report has been circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee and is proposed to be discussed in the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. The third meeting of the Inter-State Council was held on 17.7.1997. A major achievement of this meeting was approval of the Alternative Scheme of Devaluation of Share in Central Taxes to States. The share of the States will be 29% with effect from 1.4.1996. This will be reviewed in December 1997 with a view to improving it. No consensus emerged in this meeting on the question of amending article 356 of the Constitution of India.